(c) Does not arise. However, under Bharat Nirman programme, it has been decided, *inter-alia,* to provide safe drinking water in water quality affected rural habitations in the country over a period of four years (2005-06 to 2008-09). The State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, have been requested to prepare Action Plans for the purpose and Concept Papers for bridging the funding gap with external funds under focused funding in the sub-mission programme.

Implementation of land reforms

†3178. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the identified land reforms in the Tenth Plan have been construed as important policy measure for poverty alleviation in the rural areas;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this regard in the Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if the progress is not satisfactory, what steps are being taken by Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Land and its management comes under exclusive jurisdiction of States. Ministry of Rural Development plays an advisory and coordinating role in the field of land reforms. Reports received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh indicate that 54204 acres of ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 46867 beneficiaries. 15748 acres of the ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 16041-SC beneficiaries and 20771 acres of the ceiling surplus land to 18297 ST beneficiaries. 1.41 lakh acres of bhoodan land and 0.79 lakh acres of Government Wastelands have been distributed to rural poor. 95.33 lakh acres of area has been consolidated in the State.

Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

3179. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any instructions to States and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Union Territories to finalise the list of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households based on 2002 Census, to the proper implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) whether BPL families included as per 1997 Census be considered while preparing the fresh list; and

(c) what will be the role of Gram Panchayats in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 is applicable in rural areas of the country. The Act guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It is not restricted to the people living below poverty line.

(c) The responsibilities of the Gram Panchayats have been given in Section 16 of the Act which are as under:-

(i) The Gram Panchayat shall be responsible for identification of the projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under a Scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabhas and for executing and supervising such works.

(ii) A Gram Panchayat may take up any project under a Scheme within the area of the Gram Panchayat as may be sanctioned by the Programme Officer.

(iii) Every Gram Panchayat shall, after considering the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabhas, prepare a development plan and maintain a shelf of possible works to be taken up under the Scheme as and when demand for work arises.

(iv) The Gram Panchayat shall forward its proposals for the development projects including the order of priority between works to the Programme Officer for scrutiny and preliminary approval prior to the commencement of the year in which it is proposed to be executed.

(v) The Programme Officer shall allot at least fifty per cent, of the works in terms of its cost under a Scheme to be implemented through the Gram Panchayats.

Besides, the Gram Panchayat shall made available all relevant documents including the muster rolls, bills vouchers, measurement books, copies of sanction orders and other connected books of account and papers to the Gram Sabha for the purpose of conducting the social audit.

Non-disbursement of funds by nationalized banks

3180. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that 437 branches of nationalized banks have not extended assistance under SGSY;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Ministry on such banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry of Rural Development, at present there are 568 branches of the nationalized banks who have not extended assistance under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). A statement showing bank-wise number of such branches is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) The issue of non disbursement of loans under SGSY is taken up by the Ministry of Rural Development with the Ministry of Finance which in turn advised the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) in various States to achieve the credit mobilization targets. The Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also been apprised of the situation and requested to take up the matter with the Chief Executives of the concerned banks to take urgent remedial action in this regard.